

I WISH A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Merry Christmas! Ho Ho Ho!!!

ELEANOR PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN TERM 2015 NUMBER 15
www.eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk

Thursday 17th December 2015

Dear Families,

Tomorrow

It's the X Factor! The show begins at 9.15am. After hearing the 15 acts, parents and friends can vote. We then gather the children's votes. Votes are 50p each and it is fine to do multiple votes - it's all for charity! We are raising money for Planting Promise - our partner school in Sierra Leone, all up and running again after Ebola. The top three acts are back on stage at 2pm. Term ends at 3.30pm!

Events in school the first week of next term, 4th - 8th January 2015:

NO CLUBS OR EARLY MORNING FOOTBALL IN THE FIRST WEEK OF TERM

Monday 4th January 2016

SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN. STAFF INSET DAY.

Tuesday 5th

Ex parent Kate Renna is holding her information meeting about LAMDA drama and voice coaching that she is starting at EP. In the Shed at 3.30pm. All welcome - no commitment! See below.

Thursday 7th

Year 1 have a workshop to create 'litres of light' for a community art project at Granary Square. They will all need to bring in an empty plastic litre bottle!
Years 3 and 5 start swimming.

Thank you!

To Taha Mohamed in Year 4 for this week's border design

Apply for Reception 2016 - by January 15th!

Posters are now up reminding everyone to register for a place in Reception. This has to happen even if you are in our Nursery and/or have elder siblings in the schools. NB Remember that a place in our Nursery is no guarantee of a place in Reception. Please ask Tania if you would like help with the on-line process.

Attendance for the term

Class	Attendance week ending 11 th December	Punctuality week ending 11 th December	Cumulative attendance this term
6	95.67	97.33	98.50
5	99.67	96.67	98.45
4	96.67	94.00	97.51
3	98.67	98.00	98.13
2	99.67	98.00	98.74
1	95.00	98.67	97.54
R	99.67	98.00	97.08

A chance to have some speech and drama coaching here at school

Kate Renna, lovely ex EP parent and neighbour (and an occasional Sharon Osborne!) is a trained LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) Coach. From January she will be offering after school coaching here at EP which builds up with levels (as music grades) and ultimately can count - if you choose - towards UCAS (University) entrance! This type of bespoke coaching can really improve presentation, communication and confidence. Sessions will last for 30 minutes and can be focussed on a solo or duologue. Individual sessions cost £20 and paired £15 each. If your child is 7+ and you'd like to know more, do call Kate on 07989-747338 or come to an informal information session on 5th January after school in our Shed!

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CHRISTMAS

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Solar Schools

Thanks to your generosity after the Carol Concert, our grand total at the end of Term 1 is £4210! If you haven't already donated please do so via www.solarschools.co.uk/eleanorpalmer. Each tile is £5. We'd be particularly grateful for any links to larger corporate sponsorship and any community support schemes you might know of through your work and/or local connections. We need some big donations to reach our goal of £14,000 by June if we are to install our panels! Huge thanks to Sarah and Jemma for driving all the fund-raising.

Staff changes

Dilek, our Nursery Nurse, has begun her second maternity leave. Her role will be covered by Elyse, an experienced American teacher in the UK alongside her husband as he studies. She has already done 2 days a week with us recently and is a great addition to the EP team! We wish Dilek and partner Craig Cairns all the best with their new arrival!

Four evening dates for your diary next term, to liven up the dark winter months!

Wednesday 13th January at 6.30pm

Film Night fundraising for Solar Schools. Bring your PJs/onesies and a cushion and settle down for a film in the hall at 6.30pm. Film title and ticket details to follow.

Wednesday 20th January at 6.30pm

We are having a Family CBC Party! CBC stands for 'Celebrating Black Culture'! Led by a group of our fantastic black parents we have planned an evening of dance, live music, good food and more! Monies raised will go to our partner school in Sierra Leone.

Wednesday 3rd February at 7pm

We are really excited that, thanks to Alan and Alex (parents of Sasha in Nursery) who are currently working with her, we have secured an evening with Dame Tanya Byron. Tanya is a practising child psychologist and a very well-known TV personality and journalist: her work includes the brilliant TV series 'House of the Tiny Tearaways', her parenting column in The Times and her work leading the Government's Byron Review into the effects of computer games. Many parents, including me, were at her recent talk at Camden School for Girls where she spoke to about 200 parents - it was brilliant! Please plan now to be there. She is wise, entertaining and very supportive of our growth mindset approach.

Thursday 4th February at 6.30pm.

BINGO Night! A family favourite with CASH PRIZES!

Congratulations

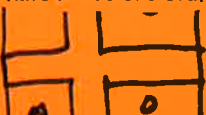
- To Alice Proffitt from Year 6. Her top score means she has been recalled by the National Primary Maths Challenge to sit a nationwide 'finals' paper on 3rd February!
- To Year 5 for their passionate and entertaining performance of Shakespeare's Macbeth.
- To the 76 children with 100% attendance this term and within that, the 63 who haven't missed a second i.e. no late marks either! The 63 will all come home sporting a metal badge.
- To everyone for the wonderful Carol Concert yesterday. What a fantastic crowd of parents - I do hope you all enjoyed it. We were very proud of our amazing children.
- To our football teams who played their last fixture on Tuesday with the girls winning 3-0 and the boys 4-0. The boys end the term just 2 points from the top with a game in hand. The girls are in contention for a place in the finals and are 3 points off the qualifying position.

A special mention & thank you to Coach William from Year 5 who has been helping Coach Martin with the squad & taking team talks.

We had a brilliant day on Tuesday, all tuning in live to watch the British astronaut Tim Peake take off! The children watched with great knowledge and excitement and we all felt a bit smug that we made our contact with the ISS before it became so mainstream! We are delighted that we have successfully bid for a share of Tim's rocket seeds; coming back to earth after 6 months up in space. Hundreds of schools are getting 100g bags from his 200Kg bag of seeds; we are then asked to grow them alongside normal rocket seeds. Will they grow differently??? A lovely project for Year 3 in the summer, along with our fantastic new gardener Bernadette.

And so a very long term comes to an end. I think everyone is ready for a break! Thank you all for your continued interest and support in all we do and aspire to do. Do please take time to thank all our amazing staff who consistently go way above and beyond what is expected, to make Eleanor Palmer the wonderful community it is. The Spring term begins for children on Tuesday 5th January 2015. Next term sees many exciting things including an inter-school maths competition hosted here, a Year 4 play, the bi-annual Royal Albert Hall Concert and of course, our 14th Egg Race. There's never a dull moment at EP!

With best wishes,
Kate Frood and staff.



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Dear Parents, Family and Carers

As the first term draws to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who makes up the school community for all their incredible hard work in ensuring this (traditionally long) term has been jam-packed with high-quality learning and fun right up to the last day of term.

And what a term it has been! I cannot write about it without mentioning the amazing live link-up with the International Space Station. This is a particularly special way to explore a fascinating topic and it was great to see the whole school come together to make the most of the opportunity, as demonstrated by the fantastic questions asked to astronaut Kjell Lindgren. The efforts of everyone who made this happen are very greatly appreciated.

The governors have also really enjoyed hearing about the developments with the new science building. Thank you very much to all who have been part of the 'Lab Rats' group, helping carry out research into what makes a great science lab. This is going to be an amazing addition to the Eleanor Palmer learning environment, as well as the wider community.

Among other achievements are the continued, immense efforts of all involved in the Teaching School to provide top class training and development to colleagues across the borough and beyond; the fantastic work of the PTA and their fundraising activities; the great progress of the Solar Panel fundraising; and the brilliant success of the Stay and Plays. It is easy, in a school such as Eleanor Palmer, to take these all these 'extras' for granted so I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all involved.

Looking ahead, the governors will be working closely with Kate and other members of staff to ensure we have robust plans in place for coping with decreasing budgets. The cuts we, and all other schools in Camden, will be facing aren't as bad as we thought they might be, but they will still require careful planning for. We will provide updates as and when necessary.

We will also be monitoring the new ways of tracking children's progress. Following national changes implemented by the Department for Education (DfE), the senior leadership team were, as always, ahead of the game in getting a new system up and running; papers released by the DfE's Commission on Assessment without Levels, as well as consultation with fellow primary schools, has reassured us that we are absolutely on the right track, focussing on classroom based marking and dialogue rather than a data driven computer system

As always, if you have any questions about the governors and their role, or anything mentioned in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact us on governors@eleanorpalmer.camden.sch.uk. Alternatively, please do talk to any of the parent governors if you see them in the playground. Please also visit the school website for more information on who the governors are.

All that remains for me to say is that I hope you all have a lovely break and I look forward to seeing you in and around the school in 2016!

Alice Barling Gasson
Chair of Governors